

Message Text

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20

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-14 IO-14 H-03 L-03 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 SP-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01 CIEP-03

TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01

/185 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ANP - HLANG:CHG

APPROVED BY EA/ANP - MR KNOWLES

EB/IFD/ODF:CSTOCKER

TREASURY:PGONZALEZ (PHONE)

EA/EP - MR GEBER

----- 076542

R 091850Z SEP 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY SUVA BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, XP

SUBJECT:ADB OPERATIONS IN DEVELOPING MEMBER COUNTRIES
IN SOUTH PACIFIC

MANILA PASS ADB

REF: MANILA 9622 (NOTAL)

1. AS REFLECTED 26 AUG RESPONSE FROM TREASURY, USG WEL-
COMES ATTENTION BY BANK TO SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF SOUTH
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PACIFIC DMCS. SOUTH PACIFIC COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

HAVE LONG FELT THAT BANK DOES NOT ADEQUATELY SERVE THEIR NEEDS, AS EVIDENCED BY PERRENIAL PROPOSAL FOR SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK (SPRDB). THIS YEAR'S SOUTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE WILL AGAIN CONSIDER PROPOSAL OF SPRDB. USG HAS IN PAST DISCOURAGED ADDITIONAL REGIONAL BANK, AND WILL DO SO AGAIN THIS YEAR.

2. AT LAST YEAR'S SOUTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE, DR. HOFFARTH WAS OBSERVER FOR ADB, AND HE MADE CONVINCING CASE THAT ADB WOULD PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO SOUTH PACIFIC NEEDS. WOULD BE ESPECIALLY USEFUL THEREFORE TO FOLLOW THAT PRESENTATION UP THIS YEAR WITH TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF BANK DETERMINATION IN THIS DIRECTION.

3. MR WILLIAM W. SELLEW, AN AMERICAN, HAS BEEN RETAINED

BY SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION (SPC) AS CONSULTANT ON SPRDB ISSUE, AND RECENTLY HAD BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH STATE DEPT. OFFICER. SELLEW REPEATED ALLEGATION THAT ADB UNABLE TO EFFECTIVELY HANDLE LOANS OF SIZE SMALL ENOUGH TO BE OF USE TO MICRO-STATES AND TERRITORIES IN SOUTH PACIFIC, AND THAT ADB NOT SENSITIVE TO SPECIAL NEEDS OF AREA. SELLEW ALSO CHARGED THAT ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF SMALL ADB LOANS EXCEED COSTS WHICH COULD BE ACHIEVED BY SPRDB. ANY RESPONSE YOU CAN PROVIDE TO THESE ARGUMENTS WILL BE HELPFUL, POSSIBLY ALONG LINES TAKEN BY BANK THAT DEVELOPMENT OF INTERMEDIATE INSTITUTIONS (NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS) BEST WAY TO HANDLE SMALL LOANS.

4. SELLEW CLAIMED THAT FIJI PM RATU MARA, WHO HAS THUS FAR BEEN COOL TO SPRDB, IS NOW WAVERING, AND MAY FEEL COMPELLED TO SUPPORT A NEW BANK. SHOULD THIS HAPPEN, SELLEW THOUGHT THAT AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, WHICH HAVE SO FAR LIKE US INDICATED NO SUPPORT FOR THE SPRDB, MIGHT BE FORCED TO REASSESS THEIR POSITION.

5. ANY EVIDENCE WHICH YOU CAN PROVIDE OF NEW ADB APPROACH WILL BE HELPFUL IN DISCOURAGING FURTHER INTEREST IN THE SPRDB. US DEL TO SOUTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PACIFIC CONFERENCE WILL DEPART O/A 19 SEPTEMBER.

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